

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14  
ACDA-12 AF-10 /093 W  
-----030050 150743Z /13  
R 141352Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO USINFO WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0424

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DUBLIN 01239

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH TIMES APRIL 14, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH TIMES APRIL  
14, 1978 UNDER HEADING MEETING POINTS:

THE DIPLOMATIC EXERCISE WHICH STARTS IN TANZANIA  
TODAY IS A VERY HIGH-POWERED ATTEMPT INDEED TO  
FIND A PEACE SETTLEMENT FOR RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE -  
ONE THAT WILL HOLD BECAUSE EVERYBODY CONCERNED  
WILL SUBSCRIBE TO IT, UNLIKE THE INTERNAL  
ARRANGEMENT RECENTLY WORKED OUT IN SALISBURY.  
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OCCASION MAY BE MEASURED  
BY THE IDENTITIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS -  
THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. VANCE;  
THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR. OWEN; THE  
BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE IN  
RHODESIA, LORD CARVER; THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS, MR. YOUNG; THE UN SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE, GENERAL PREM CHAND; AND MR.  
NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT,  
THE GUERRILLA ORGANISATION WHICH IS CONDUCTING  
THE BUSH WAR. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRONT-  
LINE STATES WILL BE WAITING IN THE WINGS.  
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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO SECURE THE  
PATRIOTIC FRONT'S APPROVAL OF THE TERMS OF THE  
ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION  
FOR THE CONVENING OF A COMPREHENSIVE CONFERENCE  
TO HAMMER OUT A WORKABLE SETTLEMENT. IT IS  
THOUGHT THAT, IF THE FRONT CAN BE PERSUADED TO

MODIFY ITS ATTITUDE TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN IDEAS, MR. IAN SMITH AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN REFUSING AN INVITATION TO ATTEND SUCH A CONFERENCE.

EARLIER IN THE YEAR, THE LEADERS OF THE FRONT, IN THE MALTA DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS, OBJECTED IN PARTICULAR TO THE POWERS WHICH WOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO LORD CARVER AND TO THE ROLE OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE, PENDING THE ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD PUT THE SEAL ON AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, TODAY AND TOMORROW, WHETHER MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDS ON THESE POINTS. PRESIDENT NYERERE OF TANZANIA IS BELIEVED TO BE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THEY MAY HAVE DONE SO, AFTER DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE HELD AT EASTER, AND INVOLVED THE FRONTLINE STATES.

MR. VANCE, FOR ONE, IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID BLUNTLY YESTERDAY THAT HE ANTICIPATED AN UP-HILL STRUGGLE. IN ITS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS NOT WAVERED FROM ITS POLICY OF INTENSIFYING THE GUERRILLA WAR, WHICH IS NOW WAGING NOT ONLY AGAINST MR. SMITH'S SOLDIERS BUT AGAINST ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT: THIS MEANS THAT THE MODERATE BLACK LEADERS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS ALSO ARE REGARDED AS "THE ENEMY."

BUT, ALTHOUGH THEIR MILITANCY HAS NOT ABATED, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ACCEPTED AT MALTA THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS SHOULD REMAIN ON THE TABLE. GIVEN THE INFLUENCE OF THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS, IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE, PROVIDED THERE IS ALSO ACCEPTANCE OF BRITISH GOOD FAITH IN LINING UP UNAMBIGUOUSLY BEHIND THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN.

IN SPITE OF REGULAR AND PAINED DENIALS BY WHITEHALL THAT BRITAIN'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PLAN (FOR WHICH, AFTER ALL, IT SHARES THE RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORSHIP) THE SUSPICION THAT DR. OWEN MIGHT BE SEDUCED - BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE - INTO GOING ALONG WITH THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT REMAINS ALIVE. MR. YOUNG, IT WILL BE REMEMBERED, EXPRESSED

IT LOUDLY AND CLEARLY, ALTHOUGH HE WITHDREW IT  
FORMALLY FOR THE SAKE OF PRESENTING A UNITED  
DIPLOMATIC FRONT.

DR. OWEN MUST LEAVE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT IN ANYBODY'S  
MIND THAT HE WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSES THE PLAN.  
UNLESS HE DOES SO, THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT MR.  
NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE WILL BE AMENABLE TO ITS  
NEGOTIATION, AND ALL THE ENERGY AND HOPE THAT  
HAS BEEN PUT INTO ORGANISING THE BUSINESS OF THE  
NEXT FEW DAYS WILL HAVE GONE FOR NOTHING:

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THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POINT, THEN, EVEN IS SEEING  
MR. SMITH IN SALISBURY ON MONDAY, AS ARRANGED. THE  
WORK THAT IS DONE, OR LEFT UNDONE, IN TANZANIA MAY  
WELL BE CRUCIAL IN DECIDING WHETHER IT IS ALL-OUT  
WAR OR A PROSPECT OF PEACE FOR ZIMBABWE.KRENE

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